



## Guidance to Obtain Chronic Heart failure (CHF) QUERI Support for Rapid Response Project (RRP) and Service Directed Project (SDP) Proposals

Investigators interested in submitting a CHF QUERI supported **Rapid Response Project (RRP)** or **Service Directed Project (SDP)** proposal should take the following steps to obtain consultation/feedback and CHF QUERI support. The goal of this process is to support investigators in the submission of RRP/SDP proposals with strong chances for success.

1. **Review the RRP/SDP Request for Applications (RFA).** All RRP and SDPs are submitted through the [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) (<http://www.grants.gov>) and eRA submission process. Find the appropriate RFA under “Health Services Research and Development” <http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm> to assess whether your proposed research project/topic is consistent with guidance provided.

**There are two RRP RFAs and one SDP RFA. Please refer to each RFA for specific guidance.**

- The **Existing QUERI Focus Areas RRP** RFA is for proposals that are directly tied to advancing CHF QUERI’s Strategic Plan and/or priority areas (see list in item #2 below). Investigators using this RFA **must** be endorsed by CHF QUERI Center and obtain a letter of support from CHF QUERI Center Director, Paul Heidenreich, MD, MS.
  - Opportunity Number: **HX-13-003**
  - Link to download application package:  
<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/packages/oppHX-13-003.pdf>
  - Link to download:  
<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/oppHX-13-003-instructions.doc>
- The **Partnered Research RRP** RFA is for proposals that fall outside of CHF QUERI focus areas. Investigators using this RFA **must** have a VISN/Program Office level partner and address VHA and/or VISN/Program Office level partner’s priority areas.
  - Opportunity Number: **HX-13-004**
  - Link to download application package:  
<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/packages/oppHX-13-004.pdf>
  - Link to download:  
<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/oppHX-13-004-instructions.doc>
- The **QUERI Merit Review Award SDP** RFA is for investigator-initiated implementation

research and requires submission of a concept paper. Efficacy and effectiveness of the clinical intervention should have already been demonstrated and the focus should be on the implementation. Investigators using this RFA **must** be endorsed by CHF QUERI Center and obtain a letter of support from CHF QUERI Center Director, Paul Heidenreich, MD, MS.

- Opportunity Number: **HX-13-002**

- Link to download application package:

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/packages/oppHX-13-002.pdf>

-Link to download:

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/oppHX-13-002-instructions.doc>

2. **Review the CHF QUERI Strategic Plan.** Determine whether your proposed topic is consistent with CHF QUERI clinical goals described in the current Strategic Plan:

[http://www.queri.research.va.gov/about/strategic\\_plans/chf.pdf](http://www.queri.research.va.gov/about/strategic_plans/chf.pdf). CHF QUERI is particularly interested in supporting projects that focus on:

**I. Decrease Unnecessary Hospitalizations, Tests and Treatments for Heart Failure**

- a. Improve identification of preventable admissions and readmissions for heart failure.
- b. Improve transition of care interventions (inpatient to outpatient).
- c. Evaluate impact of dual care (VA and Non-VA) duplicate testing and treatment for patients with heart failure.
- d. Enhance coordination of primary care (PACT) and specialty care (heart failure).
- e. Decrease inappropriate tests for measurement of left ventricular ejection fraction.

**II. Increase Use of Life-Prolonging Therapy**

- a. Improve use and safety of aldosterone antagonists.
- b. Evaluate the cost-effectiveness of life-prolonging devices, medications and diagnostic tests.
- c. Improve the use of recommended therapies in vulnerable / historically undertreated populations.

**III. Increase Use of Therapy that Improves Quality of Life**

- a. Enhance understanding and increase the use of recommended treatments for atrial fibrillation.
- b. Evaluate strategies to empower patients and caregivers for self-management.
- c. Improve use of palliative care and advance planning.

3. **Request a phone consultation with CHF QUERI Center Director.** RRP and SDP submission dates are January (Winter cycle), May (Spring cycle), and September (Fall cycle); check RFAs for specific dates. For RRP, schedule a phone call with Dr. Heidenreich at least 2 months prior to the submission date. For SDPs, schedule a phone call with Dr. Heidenreich during the early stages of development.

To schedule a phone consultation with Dr. Heidenreich, send an email to CHF QUERI Implementation Research Coordinator, Anju Sahay, PhD ([Anju.Sahay@va.gov](mailto:Anju.Sahay@va.gov)) that includes the following information:

- A brief 1-paragraph description of the proposed RRP/SDP project, with specific aims
- If applicable: a description of engagement with or support from relevant VA partners (e.g., Office of Specialty Care Transformation) including information on how the proposed RRP/SDP will address a current clinical or implementation priority for that partner
- List of proposed investigators
- Investigator's assessment of how the proposed RRP/SDP will help address one or more of

CHF QUERI's priorities (see list in item #2 above) and how it fits w/in its Strategic Plan

4. **Email draft of Specific Aims and Research Plan to CHF QUERI Center Director.** If CHF QUERI supports your RRP/SDP proposal, you should email a draft of the Specific Aims and Research Plan to Paul Heidenreich ([Paul.Heidenreich@va.gov](mailto:Paul.Heidenreich@va.gov)) and Anju Sahay ([Anju.Sahay@va.gov](mailto:Anju.Sahay@va.gov)) **at least 1 month prior to the RRP/SDP submission date** for review/feedback.
5. **Send SDP Concept Paper directly to Linda McIvor, QUERI Program Manager.** SDPs require submission of a concept paper that will be reviewed by QUERI Central Office and sent to 3 peer reviewers. Investigators are encouraged to submit concept papers before the deadline listed in the RFA to allow time to incorporate reviewer comments into the full SDP proposal. The SDP proposal should be submitted no later than 6 months after approval of the concept paper. A link to concept paper instructions is included in the SDP RFA.
6. **Send Intent to Submit (ITS) information to CHF QUERI.** The ITS for RRP/SDPs is now submitted electronically via ART. All ITS information must be submitted by the CHF QUERI Center. Prior to the ITS deadline, the CHF QUERI will send an ITS form to be completed by each PI submitting a proposal.
7. **Send final proposal and funding decision to CHF QUERI.** After the [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) at your facility submits your proposal, the Principal Investigator is responsible for sending the following information to the CHF QUERI.
  - A PDF file of the final proposal
  - Notification of the funding decision
  - A copy of the final report

**NOTE:** PIs with QUERI funded projects **must** acknowledge funding by HSR&D QUERI in all publications and/or presentations (oral, poster, cyberseminar, workshop).